

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe Brings You News from Sacramento

July 15, 2002

Model School Project proposed for City Heights

Building new schools in older areas like City Heights is a challenge in San Diego. New schools have to be built in crowded communities without reducing housing units or increasing the costs of housing. According to the Unified School District, they expect a population increase of nearly one million people over the next thirty years. To meet the needs of new students, San Diego will need thirteen elementary schools and one high school within the next ten years. In an effort to facilitate planning, financing and construction efforts, San Diego City Schools, the City of San Diego, and the Housing Authority and Redevelopment Agency are collaborating to create the San Diego Model School Development Agency.

The project, planned for City Heights, includes a multi-story school with recreational areas, community services that include a health clinic and day care center, and housing to replace those homes that were demolished for the school construction. City councilwoman Toni Atkins is seeking state legislation to authorize the agreement. I am proud to author this legislation and partner this effort.

To read the legislation go to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov> and search for AB 2867 in "Active Bills". A full report on the proposed project will soon be posted to my web site.

A war on greenhouse gases or SUVs?

By now, you've probably heard the barrage of negative media coverage swirling around AB 1493, the bill having to do with vehicle greenhouse emissions. The automobile industry pumped countless dollars into scaring car-loving Californians into believing this legislation would take SUVs off the road, raise gasoline taxes by 50 cents, and hike car prices by the thousands.

Well, it's just not true, and the word is getting out. AB 1493 is a good piece of legislation, legislators are continuing to push it, and the majority of California voters agree that it's time to do something about greenhouse gases before our shore lines erode, crops wither away, and forest fires burn our state.

So what exactly does AB 1493 specify? It directs the Air Resources Board (ARB) to:

- Adopt regulations to achieve maximum feasible and cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles by 2005.
- Impose regulations that are as flexible as possible and encourage alternate methods of complying with the standards set in the bill for the reduction of greenhouse gasses.

AB 1493 specifies that the ARB MAY NOT:

- Impose fees or taxes on any motor vehicle, fuel or vehicle miles traveled pursuant to this bill or any other provision of law.
- Ban the sale of any vehicle category, specifically including SUVs or light duty trucks.
- Reduce vehicle weight.
- Limit or reduce the speed limit on any street or highway.

Several opinion articles have come out in support of this trailblazing legislation. To read them, go to:

- "Emission standard": http://www.uniontrib.com/news/uniontrib/tue/opinion/news_1ed9top.html
- "A step to counter greenhouse gases":
http://www.uniontrib.com/news/uniontrib/fri/opinion/news_1e12schrag.html
- "At the front of pollution": <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/07/03/business/03EMIT.html>

International AIDS conference brings sobering statistics

The International AIDS Conference held this year in Barcelona, Spain has released several troubling studies on the AIDS virus. In one study, involving more than 5,500 men, ten percent of the men had HIV –and of those, a staggering 440 said they were unaware they were infected. Other studies have shown that since 1994, African-Americans have accounted for most new HIV infections in the US since 1994. Yet, the consensus among the African-American population showed that they did not believe themselves to be at risk.

This news is startling. It's time we got passionate again about the fight against AIDS. What can you do? Get tested. Urge your friends and loved ones to get tested. The Center, an organization in Hillcrest that works to enhance and sustain the health and well being of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and HIV communities, offers free HIV testing. It's also a great place to volunteer in the fight against AIDS. For information, go to their web site at <http://www.thecentersd.org/services.htm>.

To view the latest studies on AIDS, go to the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at <http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/>.

Pre-Pride open house at my office

Come celebrate with me at the Pride Parade! I'm hosting an open house just prior to the parade on Saturday, July 27 starting at 11 a.m. in my district office. This gives me a chance to meet you, friends and neighbors before the festivities get under way. The 28th annual Pride Parade is one of San Diego's most highly attended parades. This year's parade is expected to draw over one hundred thousand participants.

My office is located in Hillcrest's Uptown District, 1010 University, Suite C-207 (right above Cold Stone Ice Cream) -- stop by, say hello and enjoy some light refreshments. I hope to see you there!

Kehoe Library

Don't forget that my office offers a variety of free brochures on various subjects. Get information on everything from state parks, college grants and loans, protecting your privacy, senior resources and more. Email me at Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov to get a complete listing of our brochures and have some sent to you.

Budget crises continues

My priority right now is to work to pass a balanced budget for all Californians. Until a budget, is passed I have asked that my legislative per diem not be issued.